

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of the present application. Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 14, 16 and 21 and cancels claims 4 and 20. No new matter is introduced by the amended claims, which are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests examination of pending claims 1-3, 5-19 and 21-29.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 13-19 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,735). Applicant respectfully traverses. Specifically, Yamamoto does not teach “a decoder and selection circuitry for each DUT.” Because Yamamoto does not teach the recited elements, Yamamoto cannot anticipate independent claims 1, 14 and 16. Thus, because dependent claims 2-3, 13, 15, 17-19 and 29 depend from independent claims 1, 14 and 16, Applicant respectfully submits Yamamoto does not anticipate the dependent claims for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner also rejected claims 4-12 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto. Applicant respectfully traverses. Yamamoto does not teach a decoder and selection circuitry. Further, there is no suggestion in the reference to use a decoder and selection circuitry to determine the critical length of a conductor. Accordingly, because Yamamoto does not teach or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a decoder and selection circuitry to determine the


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critical length of a conductor, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C § 103(a) rejection.

Regarding the Examiner's notice of Bui (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,391) and Bothra et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,481), the references do not teach decoder and selection circuitry for determining the critical length of a conductor.

Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance based on the foregoing remarks. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP308). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, LLP


Feb Cabrasawan
Reg. No. 51,521

Martine & Penilla, LLP
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 170
Sunnyvale, California 94086
Tel: (408) 749-6900
Customer Number 32291